(e) when the decision in regard to change in the present import policy is proposed to be anounced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (e) The work relating to the new Import and Export Policy, to be announced in April 1988, has already started and no details can be disclosed at this stage.

Development by Pakistan of U. S. Stinger Missiles in occupied Kashmir

3568. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Goverment's attention has been drawn to the reports that appeared in 'Pravada' last month accusing Pakistan of deploying U. S. supplied stinger missiles in a number of areas of occupied Kashmir; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and what steps Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government keep a close watch on matters having a bearing on India's security and take all requisite measures to ensure full defence preparedness.

Fees charged for Visas, etc., by Iran

3569. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Iran is charging heavy fees from Indians for visa residence permit and on work permit; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) what are the fees charged by India for such services from Iranian nationals in India; and

(c) whether the principle of reciprocity is being followed in this matter and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) On the basis of reciprocity Iran does not charge any visa fees from Indian nationals. While India does not charge any fees for the grant of residence and work permits to Iranian nationals, Iran charges modest fees for the renewal of residence permits and a considerable amount for work permits which are not always issued readily to Indian nationals.

(b) and (c) Government are in touch with the Iranian authorities on the questions of waiver of residence and work permits fees and ready issue of work permits in respect of Indian nationals. Government will consider appropriate action on receipt of the response of the Iranian Government.

Iranian and Afghan Refugees

3570. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Iranian and Afghan nationals as on 1st April, 1987 who have been allowed to stay in India as refugees;

(b) what is the amount spent on these refugees so far; and

(c) how many of them have been apprehended for smuggling, drug trafficking and similar other offences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.